

**News Release**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of Rhode Island*



**August 18, 2004**

## **Federal charge filed in East Providence bank robbery**

A federal complaint has been filed charging **Wayne S. Shelton**, of East Providence, with robbing tellers at a Bank Rhode Island branch in East Providence on August 12. East Providence Police arrested Shelton a short while later, after he had allegedly fled the scene on a bicycle.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the office of East Providence Police Chief Hubert J. Paquette jointly announced the complaint, which was filed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Shelton, 28, of 31 Gurney Street, is held at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions on a state bank robbery charge and will be brought into U.S. District Court for an appearance on the complaint.

According to an FBI affidavit supporting the complaint, shortly before 3:00 PM on August 12, a man with a bandana across his lower face entered the Bank Rhode Island branch at 195 Taunton Avenue, brandishing a gun. According to a witness, the man shouted, "Load up the bag," and "I want a hundred grand." He then proceeded to rob four tellers and fled the bank with approximately \$9,000.

The witness, a bank customer, followed the robber out of the bank and saw him remove the bandana from his face and pedal away on a mountain bike. The witness reported his

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observations to police officers responding to the robbery and continued to look for the fleeing robber. A short while later, the witness encountered police officers who had Shelton in custody.

According to the affidavit, officers seized from Shelton's back pack a chrome-plated Daisy pellet gun that had the appearance of a semi-automatic.

The complaint charges Sheldon with bank robbery by force and violence. The charge is a felony and is therefore subject to consideration by a federal grand jury. A complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

**East Providence Police** and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose is prosecuting it.

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